

Native Vegetation

Queensland is home to vast swathes of unique and beautiful forest and bushland. Native vegetation is home to our precious wildlife, and helps protect us from climate damage. Tragically, over the last 5 years, over 1.7 million hectares of forest and bushland has been bulldozed in Queensland alone. Preserving and protecting what remains is crucial. To protect our climate, and the ecosystems that make our lives possible, there's no role for deforestation in Australia's future.

Suggested policy solutions for the next Queensland government:

- Strengthen legal protections for High Conservation Value forests and bushland, reduce exemptions on clearing native vegetation.
- Legislate to permanently protect remnant and high conservation value non-remnant native vegetation, across all sectors.¹
- Dedicate funding and implement programs to strategically protect and restore natural landscapes so they can rapidly draw down climate pollution from our atmosphere.
- Rule out burning native forests as a form of renewable energy.
- Ensure strong monitoring and resourcing for the enforcement of land clearing laws and mandate annual reporting of tree clearing rates.
- Conduct a review of Native Forest Harvesting on freehold land to close loopholes & improve compliance and monitoring.
- Commit to restoring the SEQ Forest Agreement, including completing the phase out of native forest logging in state forests and the transfer of high-conservation value forests to protected areas.

No backwards steps:

- Continue to deliver the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund within the next term of government.
- No weakening of existing vegetation management laws.

¹With strictly limited exemptions for essential infrastructure, safety and similar.